

Inventor: Frank Poma
Serial No. 10/064,075
July 30, 2004

REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.111, reconsideration of the instant application, as amended herewith, is respectfully requested. Entry of the amendment is requested.

Claims 1-33 are presently pending before the Office. Applicant has amended the claims. No new matter has been added. Claims 24-33 have been allowed. Claims 3-5, 7-9 and 15-19 have been objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 6, 10-14 and 20-23 have been rejected. The rejected claims have been withdrawn. The objected to claims have been rewritten herein to put the application in condition for allowance. Amendments to the specification are made pursuant to comments by the Examiner. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification as originally filed. Applicant is not intending in any manner to narrow the scope of the originally filed claims.

§132

Relying on 35 U.S.C. §132, the Examiner has required the cancellation of additions to claim language regarding the welding of rods inserted into an opening formed in the footing. This amendment confirms that for the specification of the invention, the description of welding at the weld plates rather than the rods is accurate, and the rods are not welded after insertion into the opening. However, as the invention is entitled to protection of equivalents in attachments in general, the Applicant does not specifically disclaim welding or other means for attachment where properly described in the invention and properly claimed.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

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§102

Relying on 35 U.S.C. §102(b), the Examiner has rejected the subject matter of claims 1-3, 5 and 9 as being anticipated by WALLIN. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and request reconsideration.

Applicant realleges the comments and arguments of the prior Office Action in discussing this prior art to explicitly eliminate any estoppel issues that may arise.

§103

The Examiner's rejection of claims 6, 10-13 and 11 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WALLIN in light of other references is respectfully traversed for the reasons discussed above.

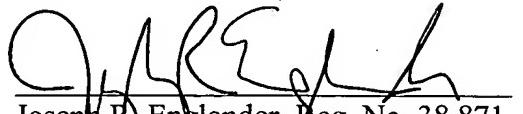
Applicant realleges the comments and arguments of the prior Office Action in discussing this prior art to explicitly eliminate any estoppel issues that may arise.

Claims 24-33 have been allowed, and 3-5, 7-9 and 15-19 would be allowable if rewritten. These claims are amended to put the claims in condition for allowance. The rejected claims have been withdrawn. It is respectfully submitted that all claims, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner's objections to the specification have been traversed. Since the amendments herein merely clarify the language of the specification and the claims, and no additional limitations have been made, no estoppel applies to these amendments.

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It is believed that the application is now ready to be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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